

Ex 2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format before receipt by the CODEC.

Ex 3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the act of encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into an AC-3 format.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the act of encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into a MPEG-2 format.

Ex 11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining a second audio data stream in LPCM format comprises:

receiving a second audio data stream in a second perceptually based format; and  
decoding the second audio data stream into the LPCM format.

Sub 12. (Twice Amended) A program storage device, readable by a programmable control device, comprising:

instructions stored on the program storage device for causing the programmable control device to

receive a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;

decode the first audio data stream into LPCM format;

acquire a second audio data stream in LPCM format;

combine the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data stream;

encode the combined audio data stream into a second perceptually based format; and